

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15174 291630Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 HA-05 CA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00
SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /051 W
-----090700 291639Z /43

O 291626Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3757
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15174

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALISTS REMAIN IN EMBASSY
REF: MOSCOW 15024

SUMMARY: PENTECOSTALISTS REMAIN ADAMANT IN DETERMINATION
TO REMAIN IN EMBASSY UNTIL THE THREE CONDITIONS CITED
PARA THREE, REFTEL ARE MET. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSULAR COUNSELOR MET WITH PENTECOSTALISTS SEVERAL
TIMES JUNE 29 TO TRY TO PERSUADE THEM TO LEAVE EMBASSY,
NOTING THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR PLIGHT BUT ARE
POWERLESS TO OBTAIN EXIT PERMISSION FOR THEM. THEY
CLEARLY INTEND TO CONTINUE THEIR STAY INDEFINITELY.

2. AT ONE POINT DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON, THE
PENTECOSTALISTS APPEARED TO WAVER REGARDING THEIR
THIRD POINT AND TO BE WILLING TO LEAVE PROVIDED
16-YEAR OLD BOY (YOAN VASHCHENKO) IS RETURNED TO THEM
AND THEY RECEIVE ASSURANCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO
REPRISALS.

3. AFTER EMBASSY DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY TO
MAKE TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH YOAN IN HIS HOME VILLAGE
NEAR CHERNOGORSK, POL COUNSELOR TELEPHONED MFA USA
RIVISION COUNSELOR ISAKOV AND INFORMED LATTER OF
SITUATION REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR
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YOAN TO TELEPHONE PARENTS IN EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION.
ISAKOV REACTED NEGATIVELY, NOTING THAT PENTECOSTALISTS
WERE "EMBASSY'S PROBLEM" AND HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS
MFA'S BUSINESS TO CHASE AROUND TRYING TO LOCATE
VASHCHENKO BOY. HDWEVER, ISAKOV DID NOT UTTER OUTRIGHT
REFUSAL TO ASSIST AND THERE MAY BE A SLIGHT POSSIBILITY
THAT HE WILL TRY TO ACCOMMODATE EMBASSY'S REQUEST.

3. MEANWHILE, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT PENTECOSTALISTS
WOULD LEAVE EMBASSY EVEN IF THEY RECEIVE ASSURANCES
THAT YOAN IS AT LIBERTY. THEY SEEM COMMITTED TO THE
THREE DEMANDS CITED IN REFTEL DESPITE THEIR
MOMENTARY AGREEMENT TO DROP THIRD POINT (RE DEMAND FOR
EXIT VISAS).

4. SEVERAL WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE INTERVIEWED
PENTECOSTALITS IN CONSULAR LOBBY. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW15174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780269-0569
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978068/aaaaagcj.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d1ffc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 15024
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2428265
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PENTECOSTALISTS REMAIN IN EMBASSY
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR, (SAKHAROV, ANDREI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1ffc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014